



EI-news

IRTS supporting Amateur Radio



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January 2017

80m New Year's Day Contest

Start off the year by participating in the IRTS 80 metres counties contest, which takes place on New Year's Day from 15:00 to 17:00 UTC. There are SSB only and SSB/CW mixed mode sections for fixed and portable stations. There is also a mixed mode section for stations using one of the nine Wild Atlantic Way special call signs, so the contest will present a great opportunity to work these stations on the first day of the Wild Atlantic Way project. To encourage more CW activity in the mixed mode sections, CW QSOs earn double points. See www.irts.ie/contests for the full contest rules.



Promoting Amateur Radio on the Wild Atlantic Way

The QSL cards are printed, the co-ordinators have been nominated and the QSL Manager is at the ready. Open

to all EI operators, from 1st January to 31st December 2017, nine special call signs – EI11WAW through to EI99WAW will be available for activation.

Each call sign will be associated with one of the counties making up the Wild Atlantic Way and will have its own distinctive QSL card depicting a highlight of the county linked to the call. There is a co-ordinator nominated for each call sign – the list is on the IRTS web site. Every EI operator is more than welcome to use these special calls **but must get clearance from a co-ordinator before going on air.** If you have a preferred call sign you should contact the co-ordinator for that call sign. This clearance is absolutely essential to avoid any possibility of two operators being on air on the same band and mode at the same time. For more information go to the IRTS web site www.irts.ie where there are links to WAW. The List of co-ordinators along with guidelines and background are available under Wild Atlantic Way – Operators Wanted. Also check out QRZ.COM.

Publications Library

The society is developing an online library of publications consisting of newsletters and other relevant publications covering the period up to the year 2000. Have a look at www.irts.ie/library to see what is currently available. At present we have more than 100 newsletters from 1988 to 2000 along with a few from the 1960s; also included is a directory of EI licences in 1952, which identifies the original holders of most single-letter EI call signs. This material provides a great insight into amateur radio activities during the years covered, while the many technical articles included in the library are as relevant now as when they were originally published.

Séamus EI8BP and Joe EI7GY are coordinating the project, and would like to hear from anyone with material that could usefully be added to the library.

SD by EI5DI

Paul EI5DI has released SDX, a free Special-Event and DXpedition logger. SDX supports CW and SSB logging on the ten bands from 6m to 160m, and will be of interest to anyone who wants to track countries worked by band and mode in Wild Atlantic Way (see above) operating sessions or, indeed, in any special-event operation. It runs on any version of Windows from XP to Windows 10.

While SDX is not intended as a station logger, it has a 20,000 QSO capacity and could be used that way. It offers all the operating features familiar to SD users, including rig control and WinKey support, and is entirely



IRTS AGM 2017

8/9 April 2017

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk

Enquiries to AGM2017@ei7dar.com

Further information soon on

www.irts.ie/agm

free and unrestricted. It is simple to install and operate, and may be used with any number of different callsigns, over single or multiple operating sessions.

SDX comes with its own 7-page manual SDX.PDF, and is available as a download from ei5di.com/sdxsetup.exe.

Program SDXCHECK, included, creates Cabrillo and ADIF files (with selection by date range) for direct upload to LOTW, for integration with other station loggers, or for forwarding to EI6AL, the WAW QSL Manager.

5MHz on general release in EI

ComReg has just published an amended version of the Amateur Station Guidelines in Document ComReg 09/45R2. The main revision is that the WRC-15 band of 5351.5 to 5366.5 kHz has been released with immediate effect on a secondary basis. **No application or fee is necessary for this segment.** The power is **15 watts PEP (12dBW)** measured at the output of the transmitter or amplifier. All modes including digimodes may be used. The WRC-15 decision was for 15 watts EIRP and this will be taken up with ComReg. The Society recommends that USB be used for voice as has been the convention on this band and as used by the primary user and that the provisional IARU band plan be used:

5351.5 - 5354.0 kHz CW, Narrow band Modes
5354.0 - 5366.0 kHz All modes USB for voice
5366.0 - 5366.5 kHz weak signal narrow band modes.

This allocation does not affect the availability of the existing channels centred on 5280, 5300, 5332, 5348, 5400 and 5405 kHz. Special authorisation is still required for these channels at an annual licence fee of €30. Let's hope for some more activity on 5 MHz to help our case for an increased allocation!

Phoenix Rally

Coolmine Community School
Sunday 19th February 2017
Doors open 10 a.m.
www.irts.ie/rallies

GB3CP back on air

The Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club Fermanagh repeater GB3CP is working again. The repeater has a good range and has been accessed directly from Dublin. The club hopes it will receive good use.

RX 145.7375 TX 145.1375

CTCSS 110.9Hz 1750Hz tone

Location = South East Fermanagh, IO64IG

See www.learc.eu for more information

Members Advertisements

For Sale

As a result of Santa Claus calling with an automatic upgrade, my Ameritron AL1500 is for sale, €1500 ono.
Jim EI8GS jime18gs@gmail.com 087 253 3768

Whistler TRX-2 digital scanner, 3 weeks old, €500.
Declan dryan83@gmail.com 086 303 2705

Silent Key Sale:

SG-230 Remote auto-ATU €290.
SSB Electronics UEK-3000 2.4 GHz - 144MHz down-converter €290.
Digital Comms DCI-435-10C 430MHz bandpass filter €220.
SSB Electronics SP-7000 70cm preamp - used €220.
SSB Electronics DBA-270 2m/70cm GaAs-Fet Preamp €150.
SSB Electronics AS-3000 2GHz antenna switch €100.
SSB Electronics LNA 435 Mk2 Low-noise preamp €80.
MFJ-906 6m 300/30w tuner €60.
MFJ-921 2m 300/30w tuner €55.
MFJ-924 70cm, 300/30w tuner €55.
EME 2320/30A UHF coupler €50.
MFJ-1279 sound card interface €50.
Tohtsu CX520D coax relays, two items €50 each.
Heil Pro Set Elite 6 Boom attachment - faulty €40.
Garmin Foretrex 201 wrist-mounted GPS €30.
Heil FS2 dual footswitch €30.
Kenwood LF-30A Low Pass Filter, 30 MHz, 1kW €30.
Maplin K53AC 12V 4.4 AH sealed lead-acid battery with charger €25.
Diamond SP3000 surge arrestor N type, 4 items €20 each.
Watson WB1 400W 1:1 balun €20.
CX-201N 2-way coax switch €15.
Séamus EI8BP seamus.ei8bp@gmail.com
087 259 0691

Contests – January 2017

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) : [IRTS Contests](#) : [RSGB HF Contests](#) : [UKEICC Contests](#)

Sun 1	15:00	2 hours	IRTS 80m Counties SSB/CW	80m, work everyone, send serial, county
Wed 4	20:00	60 mins	UKEICC SSB	80m, work everyone, exchange Locators, e.g. IO63
Sat 7	15:00	24 hours	O-QRP CW	80-20m, work everyone, serials, power category
Sun 8	09:00	2 hours	DARC 10m SSB/CW	10m, work everyone, serials (+ DOK from DL)
Sun 8	14:00	4 hours	RSGB AFS CW	80m & 40m, work everyone, exchange serials
Sat 14	14:00	4 hours	RSGB AFS SSB	80m & 40m, work everyone, exchange serials
Fri 20	18:00	4 hours	LZ Open CW	80m & 40m, send serial + previous received serial
Sat 21	12:00	24 hours	Hungarian DX SSB/CW	160-10m, work everyone, serials (+ county code from HA)
Wed 25	20:00	60 mins	UKEICC CW	80m, work everyone, exchange Locators, e.g. IO63
Fri 27	22:00	48 hours	CQWW 160m CW	160m, exchange CQ zones, W & VE send state/province
Sat 28	08:00	36 hours	REF CW	80-10m, work France & French territories, send serial
Sat 28	13:00	24 hours	UBA SSB	80-10m, work everyone, serials (+ district code from ON)
Every Wed	60 mins		CWops Mini Contests	160-10m, three separate CW contests

List compiled by Joe [EI7GY](#) (Times are UTC)